



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
23 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0023

PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

JAMES E. RIER, JR.
ACTING COMMISSIONER

EXHIBIT #VI.A.

To: Members of the State Board of Education

From: James E. Rier, Jr., Acting Commissioner

Date: November 13, 2013

Subject: Major Capital School Construction Program; *Concept Approval Consideration*; RSU #64, new preK-5 school construction project in Corinth.

STATEMENT OF FACT

Superintendent of Schools, Daniel Higgins, requests that the State Board of Education approve a new preK-5, 581 student elementary school that, if approved, will be built in the town of Corinth on an RSU #64 owned site of 76 acres.

The RSU #64 application for the Morison Elementary School was rated number one in need during the most recent rating cycle and will replace the existing elementary school in Corinth and close the Bradford Elementary School, the Kenduskeag Elementary School, the Stetson Elementary School, and the Hudson Elementary School. The new preK-5 school will also house a new central office due to the fact that the existing facility is overcrowded and the building is antiquated.

The new building is being designed to high performance standards and all local and State agencies have been contacted and, where necessary, documented approvals are on file. The project received Site Approval on March 13, 2013.

This Concept Approval is being requested pursuant to M.R.S.A. Title 20-A, Section 15905(1).

RSU #64 is requesting Concept Approval for a new preK-5 school qualifying under State statute and State Board of Education Rule, Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects.

Superintendent, Daniel A. Higgins has provided the following project description:

RSU/MSAD No. 64 is a rural school unit serving students from the towns of Bradford, Corinth, Hudson, Kenduskeag, and Stetson - generally considered bedroom communities to the City of Bangor. Historically the logistical structure of our elementary schools (varying grade spans in outdated buildings located in five separate communities) has presented challenges in providing equitable opportunities, facilities, and technology for all students and staff. Challenges include duplication of programming, loss of instructional time due to staff travel, minimal opportunities for collaborative and cooperative teaching and learning activities, lack of access to spaces for physical education, art, and music instruction, and for food services and limited opportunities for staff to engage in professional development and discussion.

The proposed project will replace our current inventory of five elementary school buildings, eliminate those challenges, and house our entire K - 5 student and staff population in one location. The school will also include space to support a Pre-Kindergarten program. This new school will support current and planned programming and our efforts to better fulfill our District's Vision, Mission, and Guiding Beliefs and support the District's Strategic Plan.

The spaces provided in the new facility will support the provision of equitable learning opportunities for all students designed to recognize student abilities, passions, interests and learning styles as they work to meet and/or exceed the CCCS/MLR. The new facility will also

- Facilitate annual efforts to achieve equitable class sizes and facilities for all students and staff;
- Eliminate unnecessary duplication of programs and services at multiple sites;
- Provide all students and staff access to a gymnasium, cafeteria, and science project classroom without the need to travel to a different building;
- Permit greater flexibility for creative and collaborative instructional practices;
- Provide space for small group and individual instruction, assessment, and support enhanced opportunities for multi-disciplinary, project-based, and multi-grade programs and activities;
- Support opportunities for flexible student groupings based on achievement of standards;
- Provide equitable access to state-of-the art technology and library –media center for all students and staff;
- Support increased effectiveness and efficiency in provision of student support services;
- Enhance our ability to fully implement professional learning communities/groups and staff collaboration by both content area and grade level;
- Enhance staff professional development opportunities through in-service and early release days – elimination of staff travel to a centralized facility;
- Provide space for our Literacy and Intervention specialists;
- Be designed to incorporate current safety and security measures, i.e. security entrances, improved telecommunications system, video-surveillance systems, and separate bus and automobile pick-up and drop off areas;
- Provide updated, age appropriate playground and play areas; and
- Serve as a venue that will support multiple community activities.

The current design for the facility exterior and elevation are consistent with the rural, conservative nature of our communities and will be inviting to students, staff, parents and our citizens. We envision a facility that supports our Vision, Mission, and Guiding Beliefs and our efforts to continue to provide quality educational programming to our students. We also look forward to the school serving as a venue for community activities and as a source of pride for our communities.

Exhibit#VI.A.
Concept Approval Consideration
RSU #64 Corinth New PreK-5 Elementary School
Date: November 13, 2013
Page -3-

Project Information

Project: New PreK-5 Elementary School in RSU #64
Superintendent: Daniel Higgins
Principal: Yet to be determined
Architect: Jeffrey Larimer, Harriman Associates
School(s) to be closed: Bradford Elementary, Kenduskeag Elementary, Stetson Elementary, and Hudson Elementary.

Project Budget Information

Total Project Cost: \$28,068,678.
Local Only (no State participation): \$492,488.
Approved for State/Local Debt Service Subsidy: \$27,576,190.

CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

On November 4, 2013, the Construction Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the State Board of Education grant Concept Approval to RSU #64 for a new preK-5 elementary school in Corinth, Maine, as a Major Capital School Construction Project and approve the concept budget as presented

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

The Acting Commissioner of the Department of Education recommends that the State Board of Education grant Concept Approval to RSU #64 for a new preK-5 elementary school in Corinth, Maine, as a Major Capital School Construction Project and approve the concept budget as presented.

*Prepared by the Division of School Facilities